

THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

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Continuing FY14 LEL Subscription

The Idaho Commission for Libraries recently mailed a letter to public, academic, and school libraries requesting voluntary contributions to cover a gap in the statewide subscription to LearningExpress Library (LEL). Since November 2010, Idahoans have had access to LEL through a statewide license as part of the “online @ your library” project. The Commission requested ongoing state funding for LEL in both our FY2013 and FY2014 budget submissions but it was not approved either year. As a result, our statewide license will expire at the end of October 2013. The Commission submitted a budget request for FY2015 that includes ongoing funding for LEL. If approved during the upcoming legislative session, that funding will not be available until July 1, 2014, resulting in an 8-month gap in which LEL will not be available via a statewide license.

To provide statewide access at least through June 2014, we are seeking voluntary, onetime contributions from Idaho public, academic, and school libraries. LEL quoted an 8-month subscription price of \$58,880 to continue the content we now have available—the core LEL platform and the Popular Software Tutorials learning center. Libraries are asked to use the downloadable form at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/contributions-toward-lel-subscription> to indicate commitment. Commission staff will track all commitments received for the 8-month subscription and provide an update in September with next steps for continued statewide access to LEL.

Ensuring ongoing access to LEL is a two-step process and we need the help of the library community to achieve it:

- First, we must find \$58,880 to cover November 2013 through June 2014.
- Second, we must be successful in getting ongoing funding approved as part of the Commission’s FY2015 budget. The LEL funding is part of a package that includes a request for reimbursement for public library ISP charges that are not covered by E-rate discounts, and a small amount for public information.

If you have questions, please contact Networking Consultant Gina Persichini or State Librarian Ann Joslin at 208-334-2150.

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

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The Nexus is available as an e-newsletter and PDF. To subscribe go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/subscribe-to-nexus>.

Library News From Around the State

Find out what is happening in Idaho libraries.

Do you have news about your library that you'd like to share in an upcoming Nexus e-newsletter? Please let Teresa Lipus know at teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov.

Ada Community Library, Victory is holding a series of cultural events and book discussions this fall called Muslim Journeys. The project, awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, includes a collection of books, films, and other resources that introduce the complex history and culture of Muslims. See more at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/dianerice/muslim-journeys-ada-community-library-victory-branch>.

Bellevue Public Library welcomed new director Kristin Gearhart in July. Former director Patty Gilman recently took a position as Teacher Librarian at Bellevue Elementary School.

Caldwell Public Library was saddened by the death of former director Elaine Leppert in August. Leppert served the library for 34 years before retiring in early June. As stated in her obituary at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com/obits/obituary.php?id=323840, the "library was her heart and soul." She will be greatly missed in the Idaho library community.

Caldwell Public Library's Board recently named Lacey Welt as the new director. Welt earned her Master in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University. She has previously held positions in both public and academic libraries, including the Nampa Public Library, the Fargo Public Library, Stevens-Henager College, and the Caldwell Public Library. See more at www.idahopress.com/news/local/government/caldwell-names-new-library-director/article_f72a2b9a-039e-11e3-a70c-001a4bcf887a.html.

Coeur d'Alene Public Library's Susan Thorpe and Barbara Nolan received the Edward Zigler Innovation Award at a ceremony in late May for their work with Read to Me's My First Books program and Head Start. See more at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/innovation-award-for-cda-library-first-books-work>.

Gooding Public Library thanked retiring director Pat Hamilton for her 15+ years of service and welcomed Cindy Bigler as the new director. At an open house in late May, Hamilton said that so much was accomplished in her years at the library because she "hired excellent people." See <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/changing-guard-gooding>.

Hailey Public Library Director LeAnn Gelsky completed her studies to fulfill the requirements of the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program. See more at http://magicvalley.com/news/local/community/hailey-librarian-receives-certification/article_4c80e6b0-0d4a-11e3-85ac-0019bb2963f4.html.



Jerome Public Library director Patricia Metcalf retired this summer and the library welcomed Linda Mecham as the new director. See more at www.kmvt.com/news/local/Jerome-Library-Director-Steps-Down-205686621.html.

Kuna Library District recently held an open house to celebrate 20 years of dedicated service from director Anne Hankins. Kuna Mayor Greg Nelson also declared August 9, 2013 as "Anne Hankins Day." Read more at www.kunalibrary.org/AnneHankinsDay.html.

Lewiston City Library held a Grand Opening for their new library on June 8, which 1800 people attended. Community leaders were on hand to cut the ribbon and welcome people to their library. See more at <http://inland360.com/31258/> and www.lewistonlibrary.org/DocumentCenter/View/200.

Libri Foundation Grants (www.librifoundation.org): New, quality, hardcover children's books were awarded to **Hagerman Public Library**, **Ola Free District Library**, and **Ririe Public Library**.

North Idaho College welcomed George McAlister as the new director of the Molstead Library.

Oakley District Library director Pamela Jenks retired at the end of June and AriAnn Hale assumed the director's role on July 1.

Portneuf District Library was one of 15 public libraries nationwide to win Scholastic's "Harry Potter Librarians' Contest" to host 15th Anniversary Potter Parties. They hosted their party on August 27. See more at <http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/press-release/15-public-libraries-win-harry-potter-librarians-contest-scholastic-host-15th-anniversa>.

Prairie District Library welcomed new director Ellen Russell.

Ririe Public Library welcomed new director Debra Andersen.

Shoshone Public Library said goodbye to retiring director Pat Hamilton in June. Clay Ritter, also the director of the Richfield District Library, took the helm as the new director.

Stanley Community Library held the Grand Celebration of their new library on July 6. A crowd of nearly 200 toured the new building, strolled the common area of Stanley Town Square, and enjoyed live music. Town Square developer Leon Jones symbolically handed over the deed to the property. See photos at www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151528718288601.1073741827.162243733600&type=1.

New Commissioner at ICfL

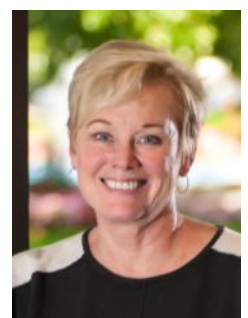
Pat Raffee, Kootenai County Chief Deputy Clerk, has been appointed by the Governor's Office to the Idaho Commission for Libraries Board of Library Commissioners for a five-year term ending June 30, 2018. Raffee, who lives in Post Falls, fills the position on the Board that represents northern Idaho and replaces Bruce Noble, who served as the northern Idaho representative for 18 years.



Anne Hankins
Kuna Library District
Director



Cindy Bigler (L), Trustee Cora
Caldwell (C), and Pat Hamilton (R)
from Gooding Public Library



ICfL Commissioner
Pat Raffee



LiLI.org Site Redesign

The new and improved site at www.lili.org is now available! Check out the following highlights:



- Combines Idaho Commission for Libraries services (LiLI Databases, online@your library resources, Mid-life Adults, DayByDayIdaho, etc.) in one site with a streamlined organization.
- Features a scrolling group of resources for quick access to the most popular tools.
- Allows you to find resources for a particular user group or by topic.
- Shortens the Full Resource Index to match your search term if you start to type a database name in the box.

Commission staff members are working on the LiLI Guide, which is in the top right corner of the website. Users who aren't sure where to start will be guided to a tool based on their information needs. Explore the new www.lili.org. If you run into something that doesn't seem to work right or is confusing, please direct your questions to lili@libraries.idaho.gov.



Updated School Libraries Section of ICfL Website

by Jeannie Standal, school library consultant

The new school year is upon us, so along with new students and new standards we have a new [School Libraries section](#) of the Idaho Commission for Libraries website! Under the More Resources heading on the right side of the School Libraries page you will find information and resources we have for the School Library. Some highlights:

- **Non-fiction Book of the Month:** for ideas and reviews to help select quality nonfiction There is a review waiting for you now;
- **What's Out There or Fun & Informative School Library Blogs:** let these talented bloggers help you stay plugged in to what is happening outside your library doors;
- **Fundraising and Grants:** a list of the organizations that give money and the websites that can connect you to the people who will fund you. Check back often because this list changes;
- **Common Core in the Library:** these websites will help you find *free* resources for your teachers and your students. We add to this section frequently, but keep it tailored to the needs of the library;
- **Letters About Literature:** a contest sponsored by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. State and national winners in three age categories are selected from personal letters students write to authors; and
- **All Things Digital:** resources to help you manage and build your library's digital resources, rather than listing all the resources themselves. Every school has different needs, so these are materials that will help you choose the tools that are right for you.

For more details, please visit the [School Libraries](#) page or contact me at jeannie.standal@libraries.idaho.gov.

Youth Services Fall Workshops, October 2013 by Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator

Fizz, Boom, Summer Reading: The Big Bang of Programming

This year's fall training will focus on **Best Practices in Summer Reading Programming**. Public and school librarians are encouraged to attend this day-long free workshop. Each region will have the opportunity to customize a portion of the afternoon session. If you are interested in joining the planning committee for your region please contact [Staci Shaw](#).

Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the workshops are held from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm**. To see an agenda with a list of topics [click here](#). To register for a workshop in your area, click on the links below.

October 18: [Coeur d'Alene](#), Best Western CDA Inn

October 22: [Boise](#), Boise Hotel and Conference Center

October 25: [Pocatello](#), Clarion Inn



Letters About Literature 2014 Writing Contest Has Begun

by Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is proud to announce our continued sponsorship of the Letters About Literature writing competition for Idaho. The annual competition is coordinated and funded by the Library of Congress Center for the Book.



Students can revisit their most powerful literary experiences through a contest that asks them to write a personal letter to an author and explain how his or her work changed their perspective on the world. Contestants are cautioned not to summarize the book's plot, but to express in an honest, conversational tone how the book affected them.

The contest, which focuses on reader response and reflective writing, has three competition levels: Level 1 for students in grades 4-6; Level 2 for students in grades 7 and 8; and Level 3 for students in grades 9-12. Submissions deadline dates are: Level 3, December 10, 2013 (postmark); and Level 1 & 2, January 10, 2014 (postmark).

State winners, announced in March, receive cash awards of \$100 in each level.

National winners, announced in late April, receive additional prizes of \$1,000 for First Place and \$200 for National Honor in each level.

For more information on how young readers can enter, browse through the LAL website for sample letters and the how-to-enter guidelines and required entry coupon. To download the official entry guidelines and entry form, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lal> or <http://www.read.gov/letters/>.

Teen Read Week – October 13-19 by Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) dares teens to read for the fun of it! Teen Read Week, October 13-19, 2013, is a time to celebrate reading for fun and to encourage teens to take advantage of reading in all its forms—books and magazines, e-books, audiobooks and more—and become regular library users. Use the event to showcase to your community all the great resources, services, and activities that you have for teens and their families.



Register for “Library BINGO: Be Innovative: Nab Great Outcomes.” Based on the theme “Seek the Unknown,” this event is designed to encourage library staff and teens to stretch and try things they have not done before. Recipients will receive a Bingo card full of ideas they may not have tried before. Try just a few ideas and earn books and other library friendly stuff for your library! Those who participate in the BINGO portion of TRW will also receive branded Wristband USBs to help with their programs.

- For more information go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/teen-read-week>.
- To register go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/TRW2013.

Need ideas for Teen Read Week?

Listen to the recording of the YALSA webinar, *Seek the Unknown in the Blink of an Eye* at <http://connectpro87048468.adobeconnect.com/p27stlay6vy/>.

More TRW Resources:

- Share your great program ideas with your colleagues via the [TRW page](#) on YALSA's wiki.
- Add your library to the [Teen Read Week Google Map](#).
- Join the 2013 Teen Read Week [Facebook Event Page](#).
- Tweeting about TRW? Use the hashtag #trw13!



Book a Guided “Capitol of Light” Virtual Tour for Your Library!

To provide more students and residents of Idaho the opportunity to participate in a Capitol Tour, the Idaho Legislative Services Office (LSO) and Idaho Public Television (IdahoPTV) produced a Virtual Capitol Tour based on the current tour program that the LSO operates. The tour is given using video teleconferencing equipment purchased with onetime funds provided by the Idaho Commission for Libraries through our Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ([BTOP](#)) grant. The tour is designed for a legislator or tour guide to be located in the Capitol building while talking to virtual tour participants about the Capitol. Several video vignettes are used to lead the participants on a tour through the building as if they were there.

LSO will schedule your library’s tour and send a laptop for the video teleconference connection. IdahoPTV will coordinate a test call and connection for the day of the event. An LSO staff member will act as a tour guide, or joint tour guide if a legislator is present. The tour is about one hour.

- See a 4-minute overview of the tour at www.youtube.com/watch?v=afCNHWjH_U0.
- For details on how libraries can connect with Capitol Virtual Tour, see <http://libraries.idaho.gov/virtualcapitoltour>.



ILA Annual Pre-Conferences 2013

The 2013 Idaho Library Association (ILA) Annual Conference will be held October 2–4, 2013 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. The conference is a great way to attend relevant workshops and network with peers.

Pre-conferences on Wednesday, October 2, include:

- *Out of the Stacks and Into the Streets: Libraries Building Community*—Rich Harwood of the Harwood Institute www.theharwoodinstitute.org is coming to Idaho to share the “Work of Hope” in building healthy communities! Learn how libraries can “be the change” and discover tools available to all libraries.
- *Connect with Your Community Using VolunteerMatch!*—Join VolunteerMatch’s Jennifer Bennett to learn how to access this free tool to write and post volunteer jobs, recruit, and retain volunteers willing and able to support library programs.
- *RDA: What’s It All About?*—Join Beth Thornton, Librarian IV at University of Georgia, in an interactive workshop that will clarify the mysteries of RDA and its impact on access to the local library’s resources.

More information is available at www.idaholibraries.org/conferences.

Pre-conferences made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



2013-14 Let’s Talk About It Program

Sixteen libraries were selected to participate the 2013-2014 Let’s Talk About It (LTAI) series and will be provided book copies and theme materials for use in the program. Each library also provides a \$100 match paid by the library, its community partner, or friends of the library. Adult readers have access to the library-selected theme and books and have the opportunity to explore American values, history, culture, and other topics pertinent to the reading selection. A humanities scholar guides the sessions. See the statewide schedule and more about the LTAI program at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it>.

The Let’s Talk About It program is made possible by the Idaho Humanities Council; the National Endowment for the Humanities; a generous gift from U.S. Bank; and a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers the Library Services and Technology Act. The program is administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



Idaho Public Library Statistics FY2012 Now Available

The Idaho Commission for Libraries annually releases Idaho Public Library Statistics, a compilation of statistical data from all publicly-funded Idaho public libraries. Statistical data are useful to local, regional, state, and federal decision makers who have responsibility for ensuring that these vital institutions remain able to provide the best programs and services for the people of Idaho. The final figures for FY2012 are ready for use at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/idaho-public-library-statistics> and include:

- Table 1: Public Libraries By County
- Table 2: Public Libraries By Population
- Table 3: Mini Public Library Directory

National Medal for Museum and Library Service—Nominations due Oct. 15th!

The National Medal for Museum and Library Service honors outstanding institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Selected institutions demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach. The winners are honored at a National Medal award ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Learn more about the [National Medal from IMLS](#). Nominate Your Library! The nomination deadline for FY 2014 is October 15, 2013.

[Nomination instructions and forms](#) are now available.



Libraries Helping Users With Health Information Needs

There are many opportunities for libraries to help users with their health information needs. Libraries have long been a source to learn about health topics. Whether it's helping people research topics for personal health, review their medical records, or learn about options with upcoming changes to health insurance national requirements, the library's role as information provider will not change.

Libraries are an obvious source for health information. Without promoting specific brands or points of view, library staff is able to provide unbiased information to users. In addition, librarians are already providing digital literacy training to help users understand how to keep personal information such as social security numbers and contact information private when using public access technology and how to interact with online government forms when filing taxes or submitting forms for unemployment. No strangers to helping users interact with public services, librarians will again be asked to assist users to navigate new online services—this time with health information.

How do Idaho libraries already help users find health information?

- [LiLI.org](#)—With databases specifically focused on health and medicine, Idahoans can research conditions, medications, and illnesses at their convenience. LiLI.org health content includes databases in Spanish, too.
- [Idaho CareLine](#)—Librarians have always had a role in information and referral. Users looking for referrals to medical providers or public health services can be referred to <http://211.idaho.gov> or 2-1-1.
- [Next Avenue](#)—At idahoptv.org/nextavenue, Idahoans can access tips, articles, and videos on health and well-being for mid-life adults.

Idaho Commission for Libraries has an online summary of several current health initiatives at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/ginapersichini/health-information-initiatives>. Library staff will want to become familiar with the variety of educational programs and the library's role in sharing information about them.





Idaho Elementary Schools Receive Funds to Help Serve Youngest Students by Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator

Elementary school libraries play a vital role in ensuring Idaho children develop strong literacy skills, starting in the earliest grades. Unfortunately, many Idaho elementary schools haven't had the resources to allow children in developmental preschool programs, kindergarten, and even first grade to check out books to take home. Last year the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) offered mini-grants to schools to help increase access to books, and this year 23 Idaho elementary schools are receiving grant funds to improve collections and change check-out practices for these young students.

The [2012 Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#) states:

"School libraries should have a minimum of 20 books per child to enable children to take multiple books home at each visit. This figure also takes into consideration the needs of teachers to have access to quality trade books to support the Common Core. In addition, it is recommended that...two new books per child should be added to the school library collection each year to allow for the addition of important new titles. Books and other literary materials must be updated annually.... Research suggests that at least five to eight books per child are necessary to support choice and motivation to read."

Data from the Commission's *September 2012 Public Elementary School Library Study* by Boise State University literacy professor Dr. Roger Stewart shows that most school districts spend very little if anything on reading materials for their elementary school libraries. The 2013 average price for a new hardback children's book is \$19.03 (School Library Journal, 6/2013). Dr. Stewart's study found that 62 percent of Idaho elementary school libraries reported annual book budgets from their districts of under \$1,000 – which would purchase a maximum of 52 books. Twenty-eight percent had budgets of under \$100 – which would purchase a maximum of five books. These numbers fall extremely short of the Literacy Plan's recommendations.

Most Idaho elementary school libraries have insufficient budgets to provide quality, age-appropriate books for their students to either read at school or take home. With 50 percent of Idaho school children qualifying for free or reduced lunch, many of them are not likely to have age-appropriate reading material at home. The result is that many Idaho children do not have access to enough reading materials to become proficient readers, the basis required for all other learning.

ICfL received 59 applications this year, requesting a total of \$242,000. Schools that had developmental preschool programs on school grounds and high levels of student poverty were ranked highest. Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 were awarded to the following elementary schools:

Burton Elementary, Rexburg	Malad Elementary
Culdesac Elementary	Maxine Johnson Elementary, Parma
Desert Sage Elementary, Meridian School District	Murtaugh Elementary
Fox Hollow Elementary, Idaho Falls	New Plymouth Elementary
Fruitland Elementary	Orofino Elementary
Henry's Fork Elementary, St. Anthony	Purple Sage Elementary, Middleton
Highland Elementary, Craigmont	Ririe Elementary Pre K-1
Hillcrest Elementary, Boise	Shadow Hills Elementary, Boise
Horseshoe Bend Elementary	Troy Elementary
Inkom Elementary	Valley View Elementary, Bonners Ferry
Kootenai Elementary	Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Caldwell
Lewis & Clark Elementary, Caldwell	



ICfL is requesting an additional \$100,000 during the upcoming legislative session to ensure more schools can improve their collections and help meet the needs of emerging readers. Research shows that the best way to improve a child's reading skills is to ensure that s/he has convenient access to reading materials. When children have access to books, they read them, and when they read a lot or have parents reading to them on a regular basis all aspects of literacy improve. Idaho's school and public libraries need to offer strong collections of quality, age-appropriate books for young children as part of the effort to have Idaho's young children reading proficiently and at grade level.

The evaluation of last year's Read to Me Mini-grants completed by Dr. Stewart showed strong positive results. "Young children had dramatically increased access to books resulting in them, their teachers, and their parents/caregivers becoming excited about books and reading. The access and excitement led to substantial shifts in self-reported parent/caregiver behaviors in the home. These included increased amounts of reading to their children, and more discussion of the books read....[This is] another example of a highly-effective, relatively low-cost program expertly developed and administered by ICfL staff," Stewart wrote.

Idaho Maker Movement Garnering Global Attention

Makerspaces have been launched in five public libraries across the state through "Make It at the Library," a pilot project implemented in 2012–2013 by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). The five pilot project libraries represent diverse geographic regions as well as rural and urban communities: the Meridian Library District; Ada Community Library, Victory Branch; Gooding Public Library; Snake River School/Community Library in Blackfoot; and Community Library Network, Hayden Lake. "Make It at the Library" provides the necessary materials and training for library staff to implement creative, STEAM-based programming (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) for tweens and teens. Included are tools to build simple robots and other creations—with 3-D printers soon to be added to the toolkit—as well as training on tools/technology, leveraging partnerships, involving community, and evaluating outcomes.

Excitement about the maker movement is huge. Idaho's "Make It at the Library" project gained national attention this year and from there has attracted the interest of other countries interested in innovation at U.S. libraries. In 2013, ICfL project coordinators [Erica Compton](#) and [Sue Walker](#) and participating staff from the pilot libraries have been invited to present, or have already presented, to audiences at several venues including:

- [Boise Mini Maker Faire](#)
- American Library Association Annual [Conference](#)
- Association for Small & Rural Libraries conference
- Pacific Northwest Library Association conference
- Idaho Library Association conference
- Afterschool Alliance [webinar](#)
- Innovation in U.S. Libraries video conference in Paris, France

"A makerspace is a place where people come together to create and collaborate, to share resources and knowledge," said Compton. "Libraries are already great equalizers by providing free, public access for all. They are, in many areas, the community hub, the place to go to learn and find information—and in many Idaho towns, they are the only place to do this. The pilot project initially focuses on engaging teens through makerspace activities, including formal and 'stealth' (informal) programming that incorporates STEAM topics to draw teens into these innovative spaces. The makerspaces will eventually be available to the entire community as the project evolves." Walker adds, "As we foster the acquisition





Idaho Maker Movement continued from page 9

of 21st century skills and encourage the use of new technologies through makerspace programs and activities, we are also tapping local innovative businesses, such as [PCS Adventures!](#) and [Reuseum](#), and recommend that libraries across the state partner with their local entrepreneurs.” One of the project goals is to develop some best practices. Libraries are looking at their library collections and their space in new ways. They are reevaluating, rethinking, re-envisioning—in order to find ways to expand the program and/or find dedicated space for the Make It at the Library project and keep their communities engaged in emerging trends.”

The “Make It at the Library” project is made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. See more on the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/make-it-idaho> and on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho>.



Participating in Digital Inclusion Survey

We encourage all public libraries to participate in the new *Digital Inclusion Survey* at <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu>, which is available through **November 15, 2013**.

The survey will generate unique and valuable data in the areas of digital literacy, economic and workforce development, civic engagement, and public access to the internet. The *Digital Inclusion Survey* is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and conducted by the American Library Association and the Information Policy & Access Center at the University of Maryland College Park in partnership with the International City/County Management Association. Results from the survey will provide valuable new data for advocacy at the local, state, and national levels.

Why is your participation important? Participation in the survey will allow your library to:

- Get a better sense of your community’s needs, challenges, and opportunities through [interactive tools](#).
- Communicate with decision makers about the value of your library’s technology-enabled services and public access technologies.
- Articulate how your library helps [build a digitally inclusive community](#), supporting 21st century workforce development, digital literacy, education, and a healthy community.
- Identify where your library’s services and resources are meeting community needs and where there might be room for improvement or a need for new partners to extend the library’s reach.

How do you participate? Go to <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/> and follow the ‘Complete the Survey’ button. In addition to the **survey questions**, libraries are requested to complete a **speed test**. Instructions are on the first page when you log in to the survey. Speed capture is automatic.

Can you see the survey questions before answering them? Yes, you can access a PDF version of the survey sections on the survey project [website](#). *Please note that the print and Web surveys are slightly different in terms of layout and presentation. Questions are the same.*

Can you save your answers and finish the survey later? Yes, you can save your answers at anytime by clicking the ‘stop and resume later’ button at the bottom of each survey question page. To get back into the survey later, use your ID to login, find your library and click the button that says ‘resume’ or ‘completed.’ You can also print a copy of the completed survey for your records.

How long will it take to complete the survey? Test estimates range from 20 minutes to 40 minutes.